

2026 PROVINCIAL AGRICULTURAL SERVICE BOARD CONFERENCE

JANUARY 20 - 22, 2026

DELTA SOUTH CONFERENCE CENTRE, EDMONTON

The Association of Alberta Agricultural Fieldmen
Hosted by the Northeast Region



COUNTY OF
ST. PAUL

COUNTY OF
TWO HILLS



COUNTY OF
MINBURN



agriculturalserviceboards.com

aaaf.ab.ca

WELCOME,

On behalf of the Northeast Region of the AAAF

We are excited to host the 2026 Provincial Agricultural Service Board Conference January 20, 21, and 22, at the Delta Hotel and Conference Center in Edmonton. A warm welcome to our ASB members, colleagues, and dignitaries representing 68 municipal districts and counties from across the province. We hope you take full advantage of this learning and networking opportunity, and enjoy your time at the conference!



THIS GUIDE CONTAINS THE FOLLOWING CONTENTS:

- Greetings & Welcomes
- Event Details
- ASB History
- Daily Agendas
- NE Market Vendor Information
- Bio's & Presentation Descriptions
- Sponsor Information

GREETING FROM PROVINCIAL ASB PROGRAM MANAGER

KERRIANNE KOEHLER-MUNRO



On behalf of the Agricultural Service Board Program, it is my pleasure to welcome you to this year's Provincial Agricultural Service Board Conference. This annual gathering represents a longstanding tradition of collaboration between producers, municipalities, and government in advancing the interests of agriculture and rural communities across our province.

For over 80 years, the Agricultural Service Board Program has upheld a distinguished tradition of collaboration, innovation, and stewardship. This conference serves as a vital forum for addressing emerging issues, exchanging knowledge, and reinforcing the partnerships essential to agriculture's future.

With gratitude to the Northeast Region for their thoughtful planning and to all participants for your commitment to advancing agriculture ensures that our industry remains resilient, sustainable, and forward-looking. May this conference inspire continued growth, enduring partnerships, and a strong future for agriculture.

GREETING FROM NE ASBPC REP JOEY NAFZIGER



On behalf of the ASB Provincial Committee, we extend a warm welcome to all delegates attending the 2026 Provincial ASB Conference. We are truly excited to be hosting an event that brings together dedicated individuals from all corners of our province who share a passion for advancing agricultural excellence in Alberta. We hope you enjoy your time in Edmonton, build new connections, and take away some valuable insights that support the vibrant agricultural landscape in your local community, and wider afield.

ASB PROVINCIAL COMMITTEE



Chair/South Region Rep - Rob Siewert
Vice Chair/ Central Region Rep - Jen Lutz
Executive Assistant - Linda Hunt
Secretary - Dawn Fortin, AAAF 1st Vice President
Regional Representatives / Alternates:
NE Region - Joey Nafziger / Gene Hrabec
NW Region - Margaret Burton / Janine Paly
Central Region - /Tietsia Huyzer
Peace Region - Bob Chrenek / Tyler Airth
South Region - /John Van Driesen

* Bio's following agenda

CONFERENCE MC Mike LaBelle



A lifelong Western Lifestyle enthusiast, a professional rodeo announcer, emcee and voice artist. I have had the pleasure working at western events from British Columbia to Ontario. As a podcast host I've covered topics such as Rodeo, Chuckwagon racing, country music and politics. There is nothing more gratifying than being a small part of the great stewards of the land and animals that provide for our country to create a sustainable culture. As a proud married father of 4 daughters, I've learned what respect looks like living with 5 women... sometimes negotiations aren't always fair. "We are our children's hero's, then automatically 16 years later we turn into their biggest cheerleaders and they become our hero's."



We are proud to embrace this year's theme:

Cultivating 

RESILIENCE

Together, we'll explore how our agricultural community can adapt to change, thrive in the face of adversity, and overcome challenges in an ever-changing landscape. The ASB Conference is an opportunity to come together, share ideas, inspire one another, and cultivate a future filled with innovation and strength in both our own backyards, and further afield.

NETWORKING CHALLENGE

One of the best parts of the conference is the networking opportunities and bonds forged with like minded individuals from across Alberta! Pick up a ballot at the registration desk, complete the Networking Challenge and enter it into the draw by 3:00pm on Thursday for a chance to win a prize. *The prize draw will be made during closing remarks on January 22.*



SEATING CHART

Please refer to the seating chart that has been created for the event to find your municipalities assigned tables. The seating chart will be sent out the week prior to the conference and be posted at the venue.

HOTEL SHUTTLE

The Delta offers a complimentary shuttle service for attending spouses or family members running from the hotel to various shopping malls such as Southgate, WEM, South Common and the Airport Outlet mall. The van fits up to 14 people and is available from 10am to 5pm on Jan 21 and 22. Guests are to arrange shuttle bookings directly with the on call driver by calling 780-914-4002.

EVALUATIONS

We value your feedback! Please utilize the QR codes to complete daily evaluations and help us continue to improve the conference.



ASB HISTORY

Agricultural Service Boards are unique to Alberta, and have been established in the province for over 80 years. They were originally set up by the Alberta Department of Agriculture to provide local (municipal) authority over the growing problems of weed infestation, and soil degradation from wind and water. Previous efforts to handle these concerns through limited provincial staff had not been effective, and locally based programs with provincial coordination and technical support seemed to be the answer.

In 1945, enabling provincial legislation was passed. The Agricultural Service Board Act allowed rural jurisdictions to set up local "Agricultural Service Boards" to deal with weeds and soil erosion, with a qualified person (the Agricultural Fieldman) hired to carry out the Board's programs. Once formed, the Board became advisory to the Municipal Council and the Minister of Agriculture. Early ASB's consisted of a mix of Municipal Councilors, ratepayers, and the local Alberta Agriculture District Agriculturalist.

ASB programs developed over time, and vary considerably across the province due to regional differences in land use, cropping, climate, and demographics. In general, they include demonstration and enforcement of weed control, resource conservation techniques, roadside seeding and weed control, shelterbelt tree planting, encouragement of crop seed cleaning and treating plants, livestock improvement, specialized equipment rental, agricultural pest management, and coordination of provincial agricultural initiatives. These provincial initiatives include producer education, field crop pest surveys, livestock pest control, and implementation of resource conservation programs.

Provincial grant funding historically made up the bulk of ASB program funding. This is no longer the case in most ASB's, and municipalities have necessarily assumed by far the largest share of funding ASB programs through property taxes, user fees, and other funding sources. As a result, Alberta's 68 ASB's have become more independent from the province in their programming. ASB's core areas of expertise remain weed control, soil and water resource conservation, and pest management. They have now grown into strong advocates for their local agricultural communities, and are viewed as key contacts for soil and water resource sustainability. ASB's now work directly with federal and provincial government departments of Agriculture and Environment, private industry, and various agricultural and environmental organizations from the local to international level.

Since 1967, Agricultural Service Boards from across the South, Central, Northwest, Northeast, and Peace Regions of Alberta have met annually to discuss and take action on common issues of regional, provincial, national, and international concern. The annual Provincial ASB Conference is organized and hosted by the Association of Alberta Agricultural Fieldmen (AAAF).



PROVINCIAL ASB CONFERENCE

TUESDAY JANUARY 20, 2026

1:30pm – 3:30pm

ASB Chairman's Meeting

Main Ballroom

ASB Chairmen and Fieldmen are invited to join the ASBPC for a presentation, facilitated discussion and networking meeting.

2:00pm – 3:30pm

ASB Orientation

11th Floor - Top of the Inn

ASB members who have not received an Orientation are encouraged to attend this session. Space is limited - *Please sign up on your registration form.*

4:00pm – 5:00pm

Townhall with Assistant Deputy Minister John Conrad

All delegates are invited to attend this update from the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation.

5:00pm – 5:30pm

Break

5:30pm – 6:00pm

2026 ASB Conference Welcoming Remarks

- NE Region ASBPC Representative Joey Nafziger
- AAAF 1st Vice President Dawn Fortin
- ASB Unit Kerrienne Kohler-Munro and NE Liaison Alternate Hannah Mackenzie
- MLA Garth Rowswell
- City of Edmonton Mayor Andrew Knack

6:00pm

Supper Served

6:00pm – 9:00pm

Northeast Market Open, Reception and Networking

Northeast Market

The NE Region of the AAAF invites you to explore a selection of local vendors from our home region! Enjoy the ingenuity and creativity that makes our corner of the province unique.

Please note: some vendors may only be able to accept cash payment



RESILIENCE





Oshust Farms Ltd. is a fifth-generation family farm rooted in Lamont County. Our story began with grains in the field and cattle in the pasture, and those traditions are still very much a part of who we are. A few years ago, we felt inspired to add something new to the farm, something we could grow with the same care and pride our family has carried for generations. So, we planted our first rows of garlic, and we've never looked back. That's how The Good Garlic Company began. Today, we grow and sell premium, 100% Canadian hardneck garlic, crafted into small-batch garlic powder and garlic scape powder. Our garlic powder delivers a rich, robust flavour, while our scape powder offers a milder, subtly sweet option for those who enjoy a gentler touch. No fillers, no additives, no imports. Just fresh premium garlic straight from the farm.



Olah Farms is a small family farm in Alberta, rooted in tradition and inspired by nature. We raise bison, chickens, horses, and a couple of pigs, and we put a strong focus on creating luxurious tallow products using time-honored methods. Every batch of soap begins with tallow we render slowly over the course of a week, then cure for six weeks to develop a rich, gentle lather. Our soaps, balms, and body butters are crafted with intention, honoring the whole animal and turning something timeless into something indulgent. Alongside our body care line, we offer premium meat and farm-fresh eggs, all made with the same care and respect for the animals we raise.

We also enjoy collaborating with local artisans who share our appreciation for thoughtful craftsmanship. This season we'll be bringing our pottery partnership with Down to Earth Pottery, as well as our bee-inspired collaboration with Martins Apiary. These pieces complement our work and celebrate the creativity within our community.



Christy Creek Honey is a bee farm experience in Lac La Biche County's beautiful countryside. We offer private, interactive, guided tours for couples, family, and groups. Visit an observation or regular hive with the beekeeper. Visit our dome to extract your own honey or make a candle to take home. Use all your senses as you learn about the hive life of honeybees. Visit our log cabin Bee Boutique to purchase honey, locally crafted goods, and bee-themed items.



I began experimenting with homemade ice cream in 2018, my son drew this logo for me at that time. As my skills improved I began selling ice cream at local farmers markets, and eventually was able to begin selling product through farm stores. We also have a 1968 Dodge family wagon, which we use as a food truck to serve ice cream at local fairs and catered events.

Our specialty is using local fruit to make our recipes. This includes Haskap berries, sour cherries, strawberries, raspberries, Saskatoons and even wild rose petals and sweetgrass. All of our recipes are made with simple ingredients, we add no artificial flavours.



The Wild Side of Luxury – Experience a full-circle approach to fashion with wild furs, ethically trapped, hunted, and raised hides, thoughtfully designed and expertly sewn into sustainable luxury items.

Conference door prizes have been sourced through our local vendors! Take home a piece of the NE from our market participants and more.

Northeast Market

MEET THE VENDORS



Twisted Fork and Twisted Fork Preserves bring bold, chef-driven energy to St. Paul, Alberta. Led by Chef Debra Poulin, they transform local ingredients into electrifying small-batch jams, sauces, and pickles that hit with serious flavour.

The restaurant amplifies that same fire—rustic, rebellious, and rooted in prairie pride—serving dishes that celebrate producers and push taste buds to the edge. This is handcrafted Alberta heat, bottled and plated.



Beary Berry Honey is a family owned Alberta based unique, one-of-a-kind, line of natural fruit and spice flavoured honey products. We are able to blend pure Alberta honey, fresh from our very own bees, with 100% natural fruit and spices to create a set of colourful honey spreads, meat glazes, vinaigrettes and teas that are as good for you as they taste!



Based in St Paul, Auntie Lees Native Shop is your source for native crafts sold and commissioned. The name pays homage to my late mother Leona.



Apple Tree Coffee offers locally crafted coffee blends. Each batch is carefully curated from the meticulous selection of premium coffee beans to the artisanal roasting process. Amanda, the visionary behind Apple Tree Coffee, has an unwavering passion for creating distinctive coffee experiences. Feedback from her local community fuels her commitment to ensuring the highest standards of quality.



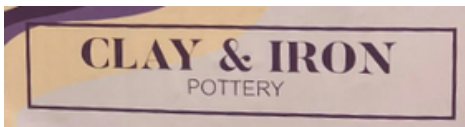
Kim Ross is the owner and operator of Rossdale Farm - a farm with big goals; to change the way Canadians on the prairies grow vegetables! Whether you call it no till gardening, no work gardening, no dig gardening, weed free and water free gardening, the concept is all the same! I grow food while supporting the gardening ecosystem.



Based in Vermilion, Alberta, the Old School Cheesery Ltd. is focused on providing high-quality cheese and customer satisfaction



Located in St Paul, Alberta, locally producing lettuce, microgreens & mushrooms.



Locally handmade pottery made by Leslie Moroz, in Wainwright Alberta.



Located in Tofield, Alberta, Beaver County Soap Co was created in 2020 and offers a wide selection of locally crafted products ranging from soaps, and bath and body products.

PROVINCIAL ASB CONFERENCE

WEDNESDAY JANUARY 21, 2026

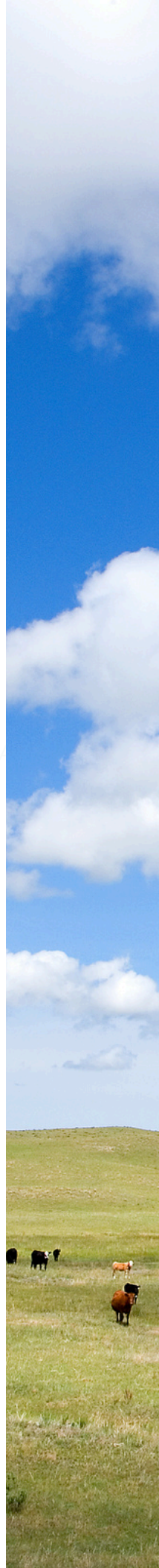
- 6:30am – 8:00am **Breakfast Served & Tradeshow**
- 8:00am – 8:15am **Announcements and National Anthem**
Presented By: Mike LaBelle, MC & Dawn Fortin, AAAF
- 8:15am – 9:15am **Keynote - AI in Agriculture: Separating Hype from Reality**
Presented By: Rob Saik, Saik Management Group Inc.
- 9:15am – 10:00am **Beyond Resolutions: The Big Picture of ASBPC and Agricultural Partnerships**
Presented By: Linda Hunt & Rob Siewert, ASBPC
- 10:00am – 10:25am **Coffee Break & Tradeshow**
- 10:25am – 11:20am **Making Sense of Stained Economics and the World of Tariffs**
Presented By: Errol Anderson, Errol's Commodity Wire
- 11:20am – 12:00pm **ASB Update by Region**
Presented By: Kerrienne Koehler-Munro, Khalil Ahmed, Trevor Wallace, Dillis Pelletier, Kellie Jackson, Alan Efetha, AGI ASB Unit
- 12:00pm – 1:00pm **Lunch Break**
- 1:00pm – 2:00pm **The Cattle Industry - Trade, Tariffs, & Economy**
Presented By: Miles Wowk, Wowk Ranching Ltd.
- 2:00pm – 2:45pm **Exploring Alberta's Climate and Weather: The Case for Cultivating Resilience**
Presented By: Trevor Wallace, Alberta Agriculture and Irrigation
- 2:45pm – 3:15pm **Coffee Break & Tradeshow**
- 3:15pm – 4:30pm **Resolution Session 1**
Presented By: ASB Provincial Committee and Parliamentarian Todd Brand



PROVINCIAL ASB CONFERENCE

THURSDAY JANUARY 22, 2026

- 6:30am – 8:00am **Breakfast Served & Tradeshow**
- 8:00am – 8:15am **Announcements**
Presented by: Mike LaBelle, MC
- 8:15am – 9:15am **Keynote - Cultivating Resilience: 27,000 km of Life Lessons from The Long Rider**
Presented By: Filipe Massetti-Leite
- 9:15am – 10:00am **Renewable Energy - Landowner Considerations**
Presented By: Darcy Allen, Farmers Advocate Office
- 10:00am – 10:30am **Coffee Break & Tradeshow**
- 10:30am – 11:15am **Common Ground: Balancing Agriculture and Municipal Development**
Presented By: Melissa Downing, Alberta Cattle Feeders' Association
- 11:15am – 12:00pm **Motivations and Deterrents to Rural Veterinary Practice**
Presented By: Megan Bergman, AVMA & Dean Renate Weller, UCVM
- 12:00 pm – 1:00pm **Lunch Break & Tradeshow**
- 1:00pm – 2:30pm **Cultivating Resilience within the NE Region**
20 minute presentations followed by a panel session
Presented By: Charlotte Wasylik, Chatsworth Farms
Kerri Oshust, Ohust Farms Ltd
Shane Chrapko, Birds & Bees Distillery
- 2:30pm – 3:00pm **Coffee Break & Tradeshow**
- 3:00pm – 4:00pm **Resolution Session 2**
If Needed
- 3:00pm – 3:20pm: **Protecting Alberta from the Impacts of Invasive Species: AISC's Programs, and Priorities**
Megan Evans, AISC
- 3:20pm – 3:40pm: **Compound 1080 Update**
Karen Wickerson, AGI
- 3:40pm – 4:00pm: **Wild Boar Control Program Update**
Hannah McKenzie, AGI
- 4:00pm – 4:15pm **Closing Remarks & Invitation to 2026 ASB Summer Tour**
- 4:15pm – 6:00pm **Free Time/Break to set up for Banquet**
- 6:00pm–7:00pm **Cocktail Hour**
- 7:00pm **Banquet, Awards, Invitation to 2027 ASB Conference & Entertainment**
Entertainment provided by **Newman Mentalism**



ASB PROVINCIAL COMMITTEE



Joey Nafziger (NE Rep)

Joey Nafziger is serving his second term on Council after first being elected in 2021 and joined the ASBPC Board of Directors in November 2025. Born and raised south of Mannville in the County of Minburn, Joey brings 26 years of experience in the oil and gas industry and operates a business specializing in oilfield construction, reclamation, and environmental earthworks. In 2023, he returned to grain farming to ensure his family's operation continues for future generations.



Gene Hrabec (NE Alternate)

Gene Hrabec is serving his fourth term on Beaver County Council and currently holds the position of Reeve. He has chaired the Agricultural Service Board for eight years and remains deeply involved in his community, supporting education initiatives, the Agricultural Society, and the Royal Canadian Legion. A mixed farming operator and strong advocate for AgKnow and agricultural education, Gene brings extensive leadership and agricultural experience to his role.



Margaret Burton (NW Rep)

Margaret Burton was raised on a cattle ranch in the southern Alberta foothills and has built a lifelong career in agriculture across Canada and Australia. Since 1994, she and her husband have operated a commercial cattle operation in central Alberta. She has served as a Member-at-Large with the County of Barrhead ASB for two years, motivated by her passion for sustainable practices and agricultural innovation.



Janine Paly (NW Alternate)

Janine Paly is an Alberta farmer and agricultural leader recognized for her commitment to sustainable production and hands-on industry stewardship. She brings practical experience from her mixed-farming background and contributes actively to strengthening the resilience of Alberta's agriculture sector.



Jen Lutz (Vice Chair, Central Rep)

Jen Lutz is an experienced professional in Alberta's agriculture community, contributing strong organizational, policy, and stakeholder-engagement skills to provincial initiatives. She brings a grounded understanding of rural issues and a commitment to strengthening programs that support farmers and municipalities.



Tietsia Huyzer (Central Alternate)

Tietsia Huyzer has been with the Mountain View County ASB for 5 years and was the Chair in 2025. With her background in dairy, she is passionate about the intensive livestock industry and brings that view to the table. "The ASBPC has given me the opportunity to network and learn about our relationship with the government and how to properly bring the agricultural issues and concerns to the attention of those that solve problems".

ASB PROVINCIAL COMMITTEE



Rob Siewert (Chair, South Rep)

Rob Siewert serves as the Reeve of Foothills County and Chair of the Agricultural Service Board Provincial Committee. A lifelong resident of the region and a strong advocate for rural communities, he brings extensive experience in municipal governance, land stewardship, and agricultural leadership. Rob is committed to advancing practical, balanced policies that support Alberta's producers while preserving the long-term health of the province's agricultural landscapes.



John Van Driesen (South Alternate)

John Van Driesen has dedicated his life to agriculture, beginning with managing his family's dairy farm in the early 1990s until its sale in 2019. He now operates a feedlot business with his sons, which has expanded to include a facility in Pincher Creek. A committed municipal leader since 2017, John has served as Chair of his local Agricultural Service Board for six years and as an alternate on the ASB Provincial Committee for the past five years, bringing a strong passion for rural governance and agricultural advocacy.



Bob Chrenek (Peace Rep)

Bob Chrenek serves as Councillor for Division 9 in the County of Grande Prairie and is deeply committed to advancing rural communities. He brings extensive experience from his family farm operation and a long career in the oilfield sector, complemented by leadership roles on numerous committees, including ASB Chair, Regional Chair, and CPAA Provincial Board Member. Bob is passionate about agriculture, municipal planning, and community development, ensuring local priorities such as infrastructure, health care access, and mental health support remain front and center.



Tyler Airth (Peace Alternate)

Tyler Airth is a mixed farmer from Alberta's Peace Region and the owner of a construction company specializing in reclamation and remediation within the oil and gas sector, as well as forestry operations. Since 2021, he has served as a municipal Councillor and Agricultural Service Board member, bringing extensive experience in agriculture, industry, and governance to his role on the ASB Provincial Committee.



Dawn Fortin (Secretary ASBPC, AAAF First Vice President)

Dawn was raised on a farm in the Westlock area. Dawn has a lifetime commitment to agriculture and has been involved with municipal agriculture for close to 30 years. She has been at Woodlands County as the Manager of Agriculture Services for the past 24 years. Dawn is very actively involved in the family farm near Westlock which was celebrated as a Century Family Farm in 2018.



Linda Hunt (ASBPC Executive Assistant)

Linda Hunt serves as Executive Assistant to the Agricultural Service Board Provincial Committee, where Linda Hunt leverages extensive experience in rural health, agriculture, and policy to support Alberta's agricultural producers. Linda Hunt is committed to building trusted systems and aligning services with the realities of rural communities.

Keynote - AI in Agriculture: Separating Hype from Reality

Artificial Intelligence isn't a far-off promise—it's already changing how agriculture operates. From predictive weather and yield models to AI-powered equipment diagnostics and decision-support tools for farmers, the technology is moving quickly from Silicon Valley into the field. Yet, most of the noise around AI is hype, and many farm operators are rightly skeptical. In this keynote, agri-business expert and entrepreneur Robert Saik will cut through the buzzwords and share a grounded view of where AI is truly creating value—and where it's not. Drawing on his experience building agricultural and heavy-equipment AI solutions, Robert will illustrate how AI can reduce downtime, sharpen agronomy decisions, and improve profitability across the farm enterprise. This is not about replacing farmers or fieldmen; it's about augmenting expertise and unlocking efficiency. The session will explore both the risks—data ownership, bias, unrealistic promises—and the opportunities: predictive analytics, “digital agronomy vaults,” and AI-assisted decision making. Attendees will leave with a practical understanding of how to evaluate AI tools, what's coming next, and how to prepare themselves and their organizations for a future where AI is embedded into the very fabric of agriculture.



Rob Saik, CEO / Founder, Saik Management Group Inc.

Robert Saik, the founder and CEO of TI Technology Corp., has forty years of experience as a Professional Agrologist, entrepreneur and an international consultant who's worked with a wide variety of agriculturalists from Nigeria's Minister of Agriculture to Bill Gates. His latest book, “FOOD 5.0 How We Feed the Future” is a pragmatic look at the five iterations of agriculture, culminating in an examination of how technology convergence is reshaping the farm and the consumer. He has leveraged these strengths to found over 15 companies in the areas of Farming, Agri-Retail, Distribution, Media and Ag Tech including The Agri-Trend/Agri-Data Group of Companies which was acquired by Trimble. He served as CEO of DOT Technology Corp (Autonomous Farming) through the acquisition of Dot by Raven Industries. He has been recognized for agriculture leadership by the Alberta Institute of Agrologists (Provincial Distinguished Agrologist of the Year), in 2016 was awarded Canadian Agri-Marketer of the Year by the Canadian Agri-Marketing Association and in 2021 was recognized as one of Canada's Top 50 Most Influential Agriculture Leaders.

Beyond Resolutions: The Big Picture of ASBPC and Agricultural Partnerships

Agricultural Service Boards (ASBs) play a unique and vital role in Alberta's agricultural system. This session offers a big-picture look at ASBs—where they fit within provincial legislation, how they align with and differ from other agricultural organizations, and why their mandate matters. Attendees will gain clarity on ASBPC processes, including the resolution system, and discover practical ways to engage effectively. Join us to set the stage for strategic discussions and strengthen your understanding of ASBs' impact on agriculture and rural municipalities as an official support to local municipal government.

Linda Hunt and Rod Siewert, ASBPC

Making Sense of Stained Economics and the World of Tariffs

Local cash grain and livestock markets are the direct offspring of global economics. Lets look at the big economic picture heading into spring 2026. What are the factors, the issues impacting Canadian ag markets. Crude oil is king of commodities - corn is king of grain markets - and bond yields tell a story about global debt markets and interest rates themselves. Strap-in . . . This will be an action packed hour of current market action and on the impact on our economy, our communities and our personal wealth.

Errol Anderson, Errol's Commodity Wire

Errol is the author of Errol's Commodity Wire - available on substack.com. His comments are now read and heard via podcast across 36 countries globally. Errol was formerly president of ProMarket Communications Inc and a commodity broker based in Calgary. He authored 'ProMarket Wire' risk management report for over 20 years. Errol actively traded futures and options as risk management tools for farm and feedlot clients across Western Canada. His career path also led him as vice president of LinncoFutures, commodity manager at Pallisar Grain, economist at Alberta Wheat Pool and marketing specialist for Alberta Agriculture. Errol is a native Albertan, growing up on a dairy and grain operation near Medicine Hat.



Alberta Agriculture and Irrigation ASB Unit



Kerrienne Koehler-Munro serves as Manage of Agricultural Service Boards (ASB's) at Alberta's Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation, bringing over 25 years of experience. Her connection to ASB's is personal - shaped by her father's 18 year service as a county councilor. Outside work, Kerrienne enjoys the outdoors, travel and plant/weed identification.



Northeast Region Liaison Dillis Pelletier has worked in many different areas of the agriculture industry including extension, crop protection, fertilizer retail, seed inspection and canola research. She is part of an extended farm family in Sturgeon County growing canola, cereals, and alfalfa.

Dillis is now using her experience to assist agriculture and rural communities through her role as Crop Assurance Specialist with Alberta Agriculture and Irrigation.



Central Region Liaison Kellie Jackson is a Program Assurance Specialist with Alberta Agriculture and Irrigation. In addition to her role as a regional liaison, she supports the ASB Program with reporting, field visits, and communications and works on various legislation related files related to regulated weeds and pests. When not working, she enjoys gardening, thrifting, travel and a range of outdoor activities.



Peace Region Liaison Khalil Ahmed is a Crop Assurance Specialist-Peace River with Alberta Agriculture. He formerly worked for the Battle River Research Group in Forestburg, where he managed the delivery of the applied agriculture research and extension program. He is no stranger to the Peace Country having previously worked with SARDA Ag Research in Falher. In his spare time, he enjoys playing tennis, and watching documentaries.



Northwest Region Liaison Trevor Wallace serves as the Manager of the Agricultural Meteorology Unit with Alberta Agriculture and Irrigation. He has more than 30 years' experience in the agriculture sector; working in research, extension and policy development.



South Region Liaison Alan Efetha is a Provincial Agricultural Service Board Specialist with Alberta's Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation, bringing over 25 years of experience, including 15 years as an Irrigation Specialist. His journey began as a cowboy in Camrose and Josephburg in the 1980s, leading him to pursue a B.Sc. and M.Sc. degrees in soil science from the University of Saskatchewan. Outside of work, Alan has volunteered as a firefighter, coached youth soccer, and enjoys gardening and home renovations. He and his wife have three grown children.



Miles Wowk, Wowk Ranch Ltd.

Miles is a fourth generation rancher in East Central Alberta who's focus is on the commercial cow herd and the raising, training, and selling of horses across North America. He is presently a member of multiple beef, trade, and watershed groups.

The Cattle Industry - Trade, Tariffs, & Economy

Miles is a fourth generation rancher in East Central Alberta who's focus is on the commercial cow herd and the raising, training, and selling of horses across North America. He is presently a member of multiple beef, trade, and watershed groups.

Exploring Alberta's Climate and Weather: The Case for Cultivating Resilience

Alberta Agriculture and Irrigation operates and maintains over 195 meteorological stations across Alberta's agricultural regions. In total, we process more than 150,000 hourly observations daily from over 520 stations. Our quality-controlled climate data extends back to 1901, and we estimate daily weather conditions for every township center in Alberta from 1961 onward, resulting in nearly 900 million data points. The Alberta Climate Information Service (ACIS) is an online platform that provides public access to this extensive climate dataset. You can explore it at www.weatherdata.ca. The data is reliable, quality-controlled, and includes historical records starting from 1961. ACIS also offers a suite of decision-support tools built on this data, helping users make informed choices.

For mobile users, ACIS is available as a web app at www.weatherdata.ca/m, optimized for smartphones and other cellular devices. Users can view climate data for their area by selecting a nearby weather stations. This presentation will explore Alberta's climate and weather data, highlighting what's considered normal and what's unusual. We'll place current weather events in the context of historical patterns to better understand long-term trends. Alberta's historical weather data reveals significant variability, highlighting the critical need for resilient agricultural systems that can adapt to changing conditions

Trevor Wallace, Manager Agricultural Meteorology Unit, Alberta Agriculture and Irrigation

Trevor has been working in the agricultural sector for over 30 years; including extension and research in Alberta, Saskatchewan and the Maritimes. Currently he is the Manager of the Agricultural Meteorology Unit with Alberta Agriculture and Irrigation. Trevor was born and raised on a mixed farm at Unity, located in West-Central Saskatchewan. He graduated from the University of Saskatchewan with a Bachelor of Science in Biology, a Bachelor of Science in Agriculture and later completed his Master of Science in Agriculture.



Filipe Massetti-Leite, Long Rider and award-winning journalist, is the youngest person to cross the Americas on horseback in an 8-year journey. After spending more than 8 years trekking 27,000 kilometers from Alaska to Ushuaia, Argentina, with 11 different horses, the journalist now speaks around the globe about leadership, adventure, taking risks, goal setting/accomplishment, resilience and never giving up. He uses powerful videos and stunning images from his journey to create an emotional presentation that keeps his audience on the edge of their seat. Two statues in Brazil stand in commemoration of his unbelievable achievement, while his first pair of boots is showcased at the Bata Shoe Museum in Toronto and his cowboy hat at the SAM Centre Museum in Calgary.

Keynote - Cultivating Resilience: 27,000 km of Life Lessons from The Long Rider

Filipe Masetti Leite spent years on the road, facing extreme isolation, life-threatening conditions crossing the Americas on horseback with constant uncertainty of what lay ahead. The weight of the journey tested him in ways he never imagined, pushing him to confront his fears, manage overwhelming stress, and develop a mindset that would allow him to keep moving forward.

Renewable Energy - Landowner Considerations

Landowners in Alberta often have questions about their rights and responsibilities when approached by energy companies interested in developing renewable energy projects on their land. Rural communities and landowners may be affected by growth in the renewable energy sector as agricultural lands are converted to industrial use. The FAO is a resource for rural Albertans who are interested in learning more about the responsible development of these projects in their area or on their lands.



Darcy Allen joined the Farmers' Advocate Office in April 2021 as the Energy, Utility Policy Specialist. Darcy was born and raised in rural central Alberta where his family managed a mixed farming operation. He is an honors graduate from the Southern Alberta Institute of Technology in Gas Plant Operations and holds certification in Power Engineering. He has direct experience, knowledge and diverse skill sets encompassing both the agricultural and upstream oil & gas and energy sectors. Darcy has worked in the energy industry throughout western Canada for over 40 years in various technical, regulatory, and progressive leadership roles. Darcy's background is highly weighted towards aspects related to energy exploration & development, and field operations, with additional expertise in community relations, conflict resolution, communication, and collaborative stakeholder engagement program delivery. Darcy is actively involved in numerous community groups throughout the province and previously held director positions with Synergy Alberta, Battle River Watershed Alliance and the Sunde Petroleum Operators Group.

Common Ground: Balancing Agriculture and Municipal Development

Alberta's municipalities and agriculture sector are both vital to the growth of our province, but when their paths intersect, challenges can arise. Competing land uses, shifting community expectations, and evolving environmental considerations make for complex decision making. So how can development be approached in ways that support mutual success? What strategies best balance economic growth with long-term sustainability? This session will explore ideas on how we can leverage each other's strengths to build a future where agriculture and municipalities thrive together, side by side.

Melissa Downing, Director, Regulatory and Sustainability, Alberta Cattle Feeders' Association

Melissa grew up on a mixed farm in Manitoba but has made Alberta her home for over 20 years now. Her involvement in the industry includes experience with beef production and value chains, quality assurance programs, and research projects and funding. She is currently Director of Regulatory and Sustainability for Alberta Cattle Feeders' Association, where she leverages her knowledge and connections to advocate for the feedlot sector. Melissa and her husband are raising the fifth generation on their family farm near the hamlet of Metiskow, where she is active in the community as a 4-H leader and Agricultural Society volunteer.



Motivations and Deterrents to Rural Veterinary Practice

The UCVM and the ABVMA engaged experts at the University of Calgary to conduct a survey of veterinarians and students to better understand how to address work force shortages in rural and remote communities.

Megan Bergman, Registrar, Alberta Veterinary Medical Association

Megan Bergman earned her DVM from the Western College of Veterinary Medicine. She began her career as an equine veterinarian with a primary focus on thoroughbred racetrack practice and sport horse medicine. After five years of practice work, Megan accepted a position with the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) eventually becoming Chief Veterinary Officer of Manitoba. In this role, she oversaw the province's Agriculture Animal Health, Animal Welfare and Food Safety programs, as well as Manitoba's Veterinary Diagnostic Services Laboratory. In 2021, Megan became the Registrar of the College of Veterinarians of British Columbia (CVBC) where she supported the implementation of a strategic plan which included reforming the complaints process, enhancing fairness and transparency and improving communication. She joined the Alberta Veterinary Medical Association (ABVMA) in 2023 and has been working to advance their strategic priorities including responsible profession-based regulation, addressing the workforce shortage, and advancing One Health.



Renate Weller, Dean, University of Calgary, Faculty of Veterinary Medicine

Renate is currently dean and professor at the Veterinary Faculty at the University of Calgary. A veterinarian by profession and passion she has worked as a mixed animal practitioner and horse vet in several different countries in ambulatory and referral settings. Previously she has been employed as Professor of Imaging and Biomechanics at the Royal Veterinary College in London where she has split her time between clinical work, research and teaching. Her clinical and research focus is on maximising injury prevention while optimising performance in animal athletes from beginners to Olympic level. She is an internationally recognised specialist in sports medicine and rehabilitation and holds a PhD in biomechanics and a Masters in Veterinary Education. Renate has been inducted in the International Hall of Fame of Equine Veterinarians, is an Honorary Fellow of the Worshipful Company of Farriers and has been awarded a National Teaching Fellowship for her contribution to teaching and learning.



Cultivating Resilience within the NE Region: This session explores how NE Region farm families are strengthening local food systems through openness, value-added innovation, and smart infrastructure. Speakers show how “radical access”—open farm days, tours, farm-to-table sales, and consistent online storytelling—can turn transparency into practical tools that diversify income and build long-term public trust. Attendees then step into the real-time, early stages of launching a local product to retail: adding garlic as a new vertical, creating premium Canadian-grown powders, and navigating the messy realities of packaging, compliance, pricing, margins, and competing in an import-dominated category. Rather than a polished finish, it’s a candid look at resilience in motion and how short supply chains begin to earn recognition. The conversation widens to a 2,000-acre, multi-generation operation in Two Hills County that evolved from winery to distillery—and, after reflecting on family health and community values, to a fast-growing line of premium mocktails now stocked in 150 Alberta stores with mentorship support. Finally, the session highlights privately financed irrigation developed with support from the County of Two Hills and Alberta Environment, securing North Saskatchewan River water for nine quarters and opening new crop opportunities—from potatoes and garlic to hemp and mint. Together, these stories offer practical, replicable approaches for building trust, markets, and resilience in northern agriculture.

Charlotte Wasyluk, grew up on her family's farm, Chatsworth Farm, near Vermilion, Alberta, raising commercial cattle, sheep, poultry, legumes, and cereals. Now, she and her fiancé, Rob, live 30 minutes up the road on their own farm, raising sheep and poultry with their two livestock guardian dogs. She continues to work at the main farm throughout the week, especially during city delivery weeks. Her passion for agriculture developed at an early age and grew through her years in 4-H and working on the farm. Charlotte attended NAIT in Edmonton, completing the Event Management, Visual Design, and Digital Publishing programs. When she's not working on the farm, she's also a consultant and coordinator for large-scale agricultural events such as Agri-Trade Equipment Expo and Farmfair International, Charlotte shares her love of agriculture through social media, showcasing farm life, the animals, her family's work, trips to the butcher, and filling meat orders. She manages Chatsworth's farm-to-table program, organizes on-farm events like Open Farm Days, and hosts both in-person and virtual farm tours. She is excited for the opportunity to be part of this conference and always happy to chat about ways we can bridge the gap between agriculture and consumers.



Kerri Oshust is the co-owner of The Good Garlic Company and Oshust Farms Ltd., a fifth-generation family farm in Lamont County, Alberta. She runs the farm alongside her husband, with their two sons continuing to play an active role in the operation and in the future of the business. With an Executive MBA and a career leading innovation and partnership initiatives in healthcare and post-secondary education, Kerri brings a strategic and operational mindset to their expanding agricultural venture. In 2022, she helped introduce garlic as a new crop on the farm and has been working ever since to build a market for premium Alberta-grown garlic products including garlic powder and garlic scape powder. Still early in this journey, Kerri is navigating the realities of marketing, retail access, packaging and compliance, buyer expectations, and consumer education while growing a brand from the ground up. Kerri believes that a strong and transparent food system is the foundation of good health. She is passionate about contributing to this system through short supply chains, high-quality local products, and sharing the realities of building a new venture within Alberta's food system.



PROVINCIAL ASB CONFERENCE

THURSDAY JANUARY 22, 2026

Shane V. Chrapko, P.Ag., comes from pioneer stock and operates the family farm that approaching its 100th anniversary. His three children, now in their late teens and early twenties, are actively involved in the operation, representing the next generation of stewardship and innovation.

Entrepreneurship took hold early—by age five, Shane was hatching chicks in the basement of the family farmhouse. He earned his Bachelor of Science in Agriculture from the University of Alberta, where he also earned a place in the Guinness Book of Records. His professional career has spanned finance, agriculture, and technology, with management roles at TD Bank and Cargill, followed by more than two decades in technology commercialization. Over that period, he helped create nearly \$1 billion in measurable shareholder value. Shane has served as a Director of AVAC Ltd. and the Canadian Hemp Trade Alliance (CHFA), and has hosted Health Canada officials from Ottawa for on-farm tours. Today, he combines deep agricultural roots with a forward-looking approach to value-added farming, sustainability, and rural economic development.



Protecting Alberta from the Impacts of Invasive Species: AISC's Programs, and Priorities

From weeds to aquatic invaders to vertebrate pests, invasive species continue to pose significant risks to Alberta's lands and waters. This presentation will walk through the fundamentals of invasive species biology and spread, the most important pathways to watch, and practical, high-level approaches to management. We'll also explore AISC's core programs, including public awareness campaigns, early detection tools, and partner support, and how they strengthen Alberta's collective defence against invasive species.



Megan Evans, Executive Director AISC

Megan is a terrestrial ecologist with over 15 years in conservation, specializing in native biodiversity and pollinator protection. She is the Executive Director of the Alberta Invasive Species Council and the Alberta Native Bee Council.



Compound 1080 Update

The Government of Alberta is required to develop a Product Stewardship Program to maintain the registration for Compound 1080. This session will provide an outline of the program.

Karen Wickerson, AB Ag & Irrigation

Karen Wickerson has worked for the Government of Alberta for fourteen years, eight years as a post mortem technologist and six years as the Rat and Pest Specialist.



Wild Boar Control Program Update

An update on the Wild Boar Control Program including the new regulations and the Wild Boar On-Farm Exit program.

Hannah Mackenzie, AB Ag & Irrigation

Hannah graduated from the University of Alberta with graduate degrees in mathematics and ecology. Prior to taking on her current role as Wild Boar Specialist, Hannah worked with the Alberta Aquatic Invasive Species program along with her K9 partner Seuss. She lives on an acreage in Minburn County with her husband, dogs and chickens.

Banquet Entertainment provided by **Newman Mentalism**

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thank you

Thank you to everyone who makes the Provincial ASB Conference possible! The NE Region expresses their gratitude to every delegate, presenter, and sponsor that has joined us this week, we hope you have enjoyed your time and gained value from attending this long standing conference. We thank our gracious hosts, the Delta, for their hospitality and service.

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